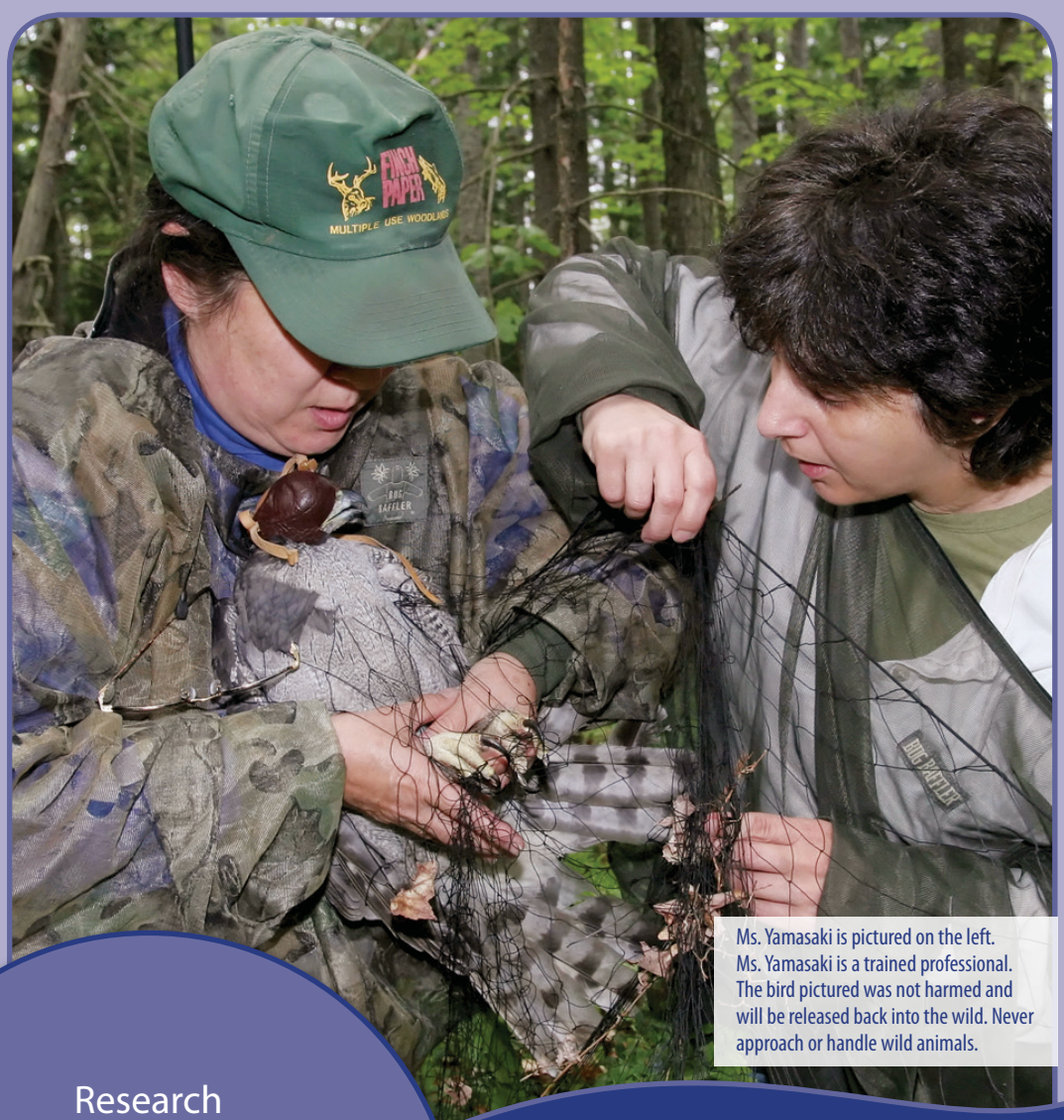
Meet the Scientist!



Ms. Yamasaki is pictured on the left. Ms. Yamasaki is a trained professional. The bird pictured was not harmed and will be released back into the wild. Never approach or handle wild animals.

Research wildlife biologists study vertebrates and the habitats they occupy to better understand how to ensure their continued presence in an ever-changing world.

Mariko Yamasaki

Research Wildlife Biologist

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Important Scientist Characteristics

- ★ Curiosity
- ★ Careful observation
- ★ Critical thinking

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:
What does Northern Goshawk nesting habitat look like in New Hampshire?

Technology or equipment used in research:
We use standard forestry tools (e.g., prisms, diameter tapes, clinometers, and Global Positioning System (GPS) units) to collect our habitat data and computers and specialized software to analyze our data. We also use ancient falconry techniques like those seen in my picture (dho gazza nets and leather hoods) to safely capture and handle our study birds.

Most Exciting Discovery

It's exciting to learn how different vertebrate species (e.g., Neotropical migratory birds, Northern Goshawks, red-backed salamanders) use managed forest habitats. It's especially exciting learning that our banded, Northern Goshawk adult females return to their nesting territories in subsequent years.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist? I began on a medical education pathway, but soon realized my interests, enthusiasm, and abilities lay in observing the vertebrate world and their diverse habitats. I was very interested in public service which led to becoming a research wildlife biologist with the Forest Service.

http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/people/myamasaki